

Title: Need to withdraw the notification regarding warning to be displayed and covering half of the labels portrayed Skull, Bones and Corpse, with a view to protect the interest of workers engaged in Beedi Industry.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a matter of urgent public importance. Forty-two lakh people depend on the *bidi* industry and in Andhra Pradesh alone, 10 lakh women are working in the *bidi* industry. The Government of India, in its notification GSR No.402/E dated 5.7.2006 of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare prescribed the warning to be displayed covering half of the labels that the *bidi* products contain skull, bones and also corpus. This is a labour intensive trade. There is a serious agitation going on all over the State. The Constituency of Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi is also having this problem. The notification will be implemented from 1st June onwards. The *bidi* workers are committing suicide in Medak and Karimnagar districts of Andhra Pradesh. On 11th December, the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly passed a unanimous resolution requesting the Government of India to withdraw the notification and protect poor *bidi* workers. An all party delegation including Shri Chandrababu Naidu under the leadership of Shri Rajsekhar Reddy met the hon. Prime Minister and requested him to withdraw the notification which is meanwhile put in abeyance. The agitations are going on throughout the State. The hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs is here.

MR. SPEAKER: So what?

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, he knows the problem. Therefore, he has to put some influence on the Ministry of Health to withdraw the notification. Otherwise, 42 lakh *bidi* workers will suffer.

MR. SPEAKER: He is reminded of the problem.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, in West Bengal also, there are *bidi* workers.

MR. SPEAKER: Just because *bidi* workers are there in West Bengal also, should I give you special favour?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more will be recorded. I seek cooperation from all sides.

(Interruptions)*